

Department of Washington Oratorical Committee
Post or District Certification
Recommended Script for Certifying Official

Before the contest, the moderator should write down the names of all contestants and draw numbers for speaking order. Also, the names of all of the participating officials should also be inserted prior to commencing the certification process.

Good morning/afternoon/evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to American Legion Post (or District) #_____. My name is _____.

I will act as the certifying official for the program today. We are here to certify our prospective student contestants as qualified to participate in the Department of Washington's Constitutional Speech Contest, scheduled to be held at the Big Bend Community College, in Moses Lake on March _____. Before we begin our certification process, I would like to ask that you all rise and join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. *(Pledge is given)* Please remain standing for a short prayer led by Chaplain (or officer) _____. *(Prayer is given)*

I would also like to take a moment to thank Post _____ or District _____ Commander _____, (recognize other post, district, or department officers and chairs). I would also like to recognize our timers _____ and _____; and our evaluators _____, _____, and _____.

Without the support and assistance of fine people such as these, our Constitutional Speech Contest Certification event would not be possible. On that

note, I would like to thank the contestants who have spent so many hours in preparation for the task which stands before you. It is your interest in this program that helps to ensure the future of our country as you learn about the U.S. Constitution. With that said, please know that each and every person in this room is here to support you in this endeavor. Today you will not be judged in the traditional format of the Program, but simply evaluated with similar criteria used in the “actual” contest. Following today’s orations, you will be presented with comments designed to help you succeed in the State Contest.

To be certified as an American Legion Oratorical Contestant, you must be able to deliver an eight to 10 minute prepared oration on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution emphasizing duties and obligations of citizens to our government. You will also be asked to deliver a three to five minute oration on one of the four assigned topics as listed in the Official Rules brochures for this year. At all phases of the State contest, each oration must be delivered without notes, sound system, or lectern.

Our evaluators will analyze each oration. These evaluators will determine if a student is eligible for certification by the criteria set on the **Criteria for Certification Form**. Hopefully each and every one of you will become certified. However, if for some reason you are not certified to compete in the contest, another opportunity will be arranged for you to certify. The evaluators will meet

with you on a one-on-one basis and offer you suggestions and comments which you may find extremely valuable in “fine tuning” your orations.

Each oration today will be timed. During the 8 to 10 minute prepared oration, the timer will hold up a card at the 8, 9, and 10-minute marks. During the 3 to 5 minute assigned topic oration, you will be shown a card at the 3, 4, and 5-minute marks.

The contestants will be introduced by number only. I will introduce all contestants to you following the evaluation phase of our event. Please do not leave the room as contestants are speaking. Please do not take pictures. Please turn off all cell phones, alarm watches and noise making devices. Please do not applaud after the orations.

We encourage all contestants to remain in this room during the entire certification process as you might find it helpful to your own presentation by watching and possibly learning from the other contestants. However, during the actual contest this will not be allowed.

At this time we will begin the 8 to 10 minute prepared orations.

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant Number 1. The title of his (or her) oration is:

(After the oration, student takes a seat. Times will not be announced. Times should be recorded by timers and applied to the evaluation sheet.)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant Number 2. The title of his (or her) oration is:

(After the oration, student takes a seat. Times will not be announced)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant Number 3. The title of his (or her) oration is:

(After the oration, student takes a seat. Times will not be announced)

We will now draw the assigned topic for the 3-5 minute assigned topic portion of this certification. During the actual contest, you would be placed in a private room and given 5 minutes to prepare your oration. Will _____ please come forward and select one of the four assigned topics. *(After it is drawn)* I will read the assigned topic to everyone now. *(Read the assigned topic)* We will now take a five minute recess to allow our prospective contestants time to prepare for their assigned topic presentation. *(Take a 5 minute break, students can prepare)*

(Call everyone back to order)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant Number 1.

(After the oration, student takes a seat. Times will not be announced)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant Number 2.

(After the oration, student takes a seat. Times will not be announced).

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant Number 3.

(After the oration, student takes a seat. Times will not be announced)

(Following last oration)

Ladies and gentleman, this completes the speaking phase of American Legion Post (or District) _____'s Oratorical Certification Process. Please remain seated as I quickly meet with our evaluators to determine the disposition of our prospective Oratorical Contestants. *(Quickly meet with evaluator, look at criteria to determine if students are certified. It is expected that all will be certified. If not, you can make arrangements for any non-certified student to try again.*

(When ready, call the group back to order.)

First I would like to invite all of our students to the front of the room. Now, let's all show our appreciation for their work and for a job well done – (***Lead Applause***).

I would like to introduce our contestants to you:

Appearing as Contestant Number 1 was _____, a
_____, at _____ High School.

Appearing as Contestant Number 2 was _____, a
_____, at _____ High School.

Appearing as Contestant Number 3 was _____, a
_____, at _____ High School.

Contestants are certified to compete in the Department of Washington Oratorical Contest (*If one is not certified, make arrangements to try again*). Once again, I would like to thank you all for participating in today's oratorical certification event. Please feel free to enjoy the refreshments provided by Post _____. I would invite our contestants to get refreshments and meet with the evaluators. You are dismissed.

(Chairman or certifying official must complete the Certification Form and mail (or email) it to the Department Certification Officer listed on form)